

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 17346

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI ON FOREIGN DANGERS

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 17292 (B) NEW DELHI 17164

1. THE PRIME MINISTER'S REFERENCES TO "FOREIGN DANGERS" AT THE CHANDIGARH ALL-INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE SESSIONS DEC. 29 WERE CONSIDERABLY STRONGER AND MORE EXTENSIVE THAN INITIALLY REPORTED FROM WIRE SERVICE FILING (REF A); A SPECIAL MESSAGE SENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE NATIONAL HERALD NEWSPAPER IN DELHI PUBLISHED DEC. 30 FOLLOWS THE SAME PATTERN.

2. THE PRESS DEC. 30 REPORTS MRS. GANDHI AS HAVING INTERVENED AT LENGTH IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT POLITICAL RESOLUTION BEFORE THE AICC SUBJECTS COMMITTEE DEC. 29 TO "LASH OUT" AGAINST THE PRESS AND TV IN WESTERN COUNTRIES. THESE COUNTRIES, SHE REPORTEDLY SAID, HAD NEVER HELPED DEMOCRATIC INDIA BUT HAD HELPED UNDEMOCRATIC REGIMES MORALLY, FINANCIALLY, AND THROUGH ARMS. FOREIGN PRESS COMMENTS ON THE EMERGENCY WERE NOT NEW; THEY HAD ADOPTED A SIMILAR ATTITUDE

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TOWARD NEHRU AND GANDHI AND THEIR REACTION ONLY PROVED

WHOM THEY WERE ENCOURAGING IN INDIA. "IT DID NOT MATTER TO THEM THAT WE WERE A DEMOCRACY. IT DID NOT MATTER THAT WE DID THEN HAVE NO CENSORSHIP AND NO DETENTION OF OPPOSITION LEADERS. NOW WE HEAR FROM THEIR OWN MOUTH HOW THEY HAVE DELIBERATELY INTERED, TOPPLED THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH WERE DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED. IT IS NOT ONLY IN ONE COUNTRY BUT MANY WHO ARE DOING THIS. THERE IS ONE COUNTRY WHICH SPECIALIZES IN SENDING INTELLIGENCE MEN OUT AS JOURNALISTS." RECALLING THAT SHE WAS ASKED TO FURNISH PROOF WHEN SHE HAD SAID ALL THIS BEFORE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID, "WHAT MORE PROOF IS NEEDED THAN WHAT THEY ARE THEMSELVES SAYING NOW?" "SOME OF THOSE INVOLVED IN DARK THINGS OUTSIDE ARE NOW IN INDIA. BUT WE HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE..." THERE WERE MANY WAYS OF INCITING TROUBLE, THE PRIME MINISTER IS REPORTED AS SAYING. NOT ALL OF THEM WERE OVERT. ARMS WERE NOT ALWAYS INVOLVED IN TOPPLING GOVERNMENTS ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO DEARTH OF ARMS IN INDIA. WHAT HAD BEEN SAID BY SENATORS IN THE HIGHEST LEGISLATURE AND IN NEWSPAPERS ABROAD WAS REVEALING AS WAS ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED IN A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY. INDIA WANTED A BETTER LIVING STANDARD FOR ITS PEOPLE AND HAD CHARTED ITS OWN PATH OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (REPORTS THE PATRIOT'S VERSION). "SINCE INDIA DOES NOT WANT TO TOE (SIC) THE RICH NATIONS OF THE WORLD FOR HER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS, THIS HURTS THEM AND HAS MADE INDIA A THORN IN THEIR FLESH. THIS FACTOR IS IMPELLING THESE COUNTRIES TO BACK INDIAN REACTION."

3. SPEAKING SEPARATELY TO DELEGATES FROM THE YOUTH CONGRESS ON DEC. 29, MRS. GANDHI (IN ADDITION TO HER REMARKS CITED IN REF A) AGAIN REFERRED TO THE FOREIGN PRESS, SAYING "MAY I ASK THESE PEOPLE WHERE WERE THEIR CONCEPTS OF DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES WHEN THEY RULED THE COUNTRY? THEY NEVER BOTHERED ABOUT INDIANS OR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS, INSTITUTIONS OR VALUES. TODAY THEY ARE SHOUTING IN THE NAMES OF DEMOCRACY AND CARRYING ON A TIRADE AGAINST US." THE AGITATION AGAINST THE CONGRESS HAD RECEIVED WIDE SUPPORT FROM THE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS AND MASS MEDIA ORGANIZATION. IT ONLY SHOWED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN VESTED FOREIGN INTERESTS BEHIND IT.

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4. IN HER SPECIAL MESSAGE TO THE NATIONAL HERALD, MRS. GANDHI SAID: "IT IS IRONICAL THAT THOSE WHO HAVE AIDED AND ABETTED DICTATORSHIPS AND ORGANIZED PLOTS TO DESTABILIZE LAWFULLY ELECTED GOVERNMENTS SHOULD NOW PREACH DEMOCRACY TO US... WE HAVE NO TIME FOR THE COUNSEL OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD LIKE INDIA TO BE WEAK AND DEPENDENT ON OTHERS." NOTING THAT ALTHOUGH ONE PHASE OF THE EMERGENCY HAD NOW ENDED, THE

PRIME MINISTER OBSERVED "THE DANGERS REMAIN. THE OPPOSITION IS PERSISTENT IN ITS ATTEMPT. OUTSIDE ENCOURAGEMENT TO IT HAS NOT STOPPED. THIS IS NO TIME TO RELAX."

5. THUS FAR, OTHER SPEAKERS HAVE NOT PICKED UP MRS. GANDHI'S STRONG LANGUAGE, BUT IT IS PROBABLY TOO MUCH TO EXPECT THIS WILL CONTINUE. THE "LULL" IN ATTACKS ON THE FOREIGN ENEMY WE REFERRED TO IN REF B CAME TO A SWIFT END, AS WE SUGGESTED IT MIGHT IN PARA 6 OF THAT MESSAGE. WHENEVER THE PRIME MINISTER DECIDES TO TAKE SOME DOMESTIC POLITICAL INITIATIVE WHICH NEEDS STRONG JUSTIFICATION (SUCH AS EXTENDING THE EMERGENCY AND DEFERRING ELECTIONS) THE TEMPTATION SEEMS ALMOST IRRESISTIBLE TO RETURN TO THE THEME OF THE "FOREIGN ENEMY." TO SOME EXTENT THIS REPRESENTS POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY; IN A DEEPER SENSE, IT CONTINUES TO REFLECT MRS. GANDHI'S MUDDLED CONCERNS, SUSPICIONS AND FEARS.
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